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CZECHOSLOVAK PLAN FULFILLMENT IN 1955

[Comment: This report presents information on Czechoslovak plan fulfillment in 1955, published in the 24 March 1956 issue of Statistický Obzor (Statistical Review), the economic and statistical publication of the State Statistical Office (Statní úrad statistický) in Prague.]

Industrial Development

The increased plan of gross industrial production was fulfilled 103 percent in 1955. Fulfillment by individual ministries was as follows:

Ministries	Fulfillment(%)
Fuel	101
Power	101
Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines	106
Chemical Industry	103
Engineering, over-all	99
Construction (production of construction materials)	104
Forests and Lumber Industry	105
Light Industry	104
Food Industry	104

Industrial enterprises of the ministries

Transportation	103
Bulk buying	106
Culture	112
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Local economy	105
Other Ministries and Central Agencies	102

Producer Cooperatives

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Production of the following industrial products during 1955 was greater than planned: power; brown coal (hnedé uhlí); hard-coal briquettes (kamenouhelné brikety); natural gas; salable iron ore; lead-zinc ore; gasoline; diesel oil; raw steel; rolled goods; steel pipe; special types of rolled goods such as drawn, free-machining steel and alloyed structural and tool profile steel; lead; zinc; electrolytic copper; primary aluminum; mine loaders; coal chutes for mines; tractor-mounted planters, grain drills and grain combines; gray iron and malleable iron castings; phosphate fertilizers; tar pigments; polyvinyl chloride, viscose rayon, cord silk, and polyamide filers; automobile tires; refractory materials such as magnesite brick; asbestos-cement products such as pipes, fittings, and roofing materials; coniferous lumber; plywood panels; unbleached cellulose; cardboard; and others.

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The 1955 production plan was also surpassed in the following varieties of consumer goods: meat; meat products; rendered hog lard; confectionary products; chocolate and other candies; durable butter; cream; curd; canned milk; drugs such as penicillin, streptomycin, and sulfanilamide drugs; furniture; paper; cotton, wool, silk, and semi linen fabrics; carpets; thread; knitted outer garments; Silon hose and socks; leather footwear; rubber work footwear; light bulbs; television sets; ranges for solid fuels; bicycle tires and tubes; floor covering; printed Igelit (plastic) tablecloths; soap; and others.

Despite the fact that the gross industrial production plan for 1955 was surpassed in all sectors except in those of the engineering ministries, some important tasks were not completed. The following ministries failed to fulfill plans for the products indicated: the Ministry of Fuels, extraction of hard coal, lignite, and petroleum; the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines, extraction of copper and production of pyrite concentrates, refined steel sheets, and mine rails; the Ministry of the Chemical Industry, nitrogeous fertilizers and viscose filters; the Ministry of Engineering, boilers, steam turbines, diesel engines, some types of metal working machines such as turret lathes, horizontal boring machines, grinding machines, and boring assemblies, tractors, railway passenger cars, automobiles, spare parts for boring assemblies and for bucket and grab excavators, and replacement parts for automobiles and motorcycles; the Ministry of Construction, cement, bricks, and roofing tile; the Ministry of Forestry and the Lumber Industry, cellulose; the Ministry of Light Industry, cotton yarn and porcelain goods; the Ministry of the Food Industry, refined sugar (as a result of lower sugar content in sugar beets); and the Ministry of the Local Economy, bricks, roofing tile, and slate roofing materials.

While the over-all plan of gross production was fulfilled and surpassed in all quarters and in all months of the year, an average of one fourth of the enterprises did not fulfill their monthly plans. The ministries did not battle effectively enough against deficiencies in direction and organization of production and against irregular plan fulfillment. This was particularly the case in enterprises of the Ministry of Fuels and in those of the engineering ministries.

Gross industrial production in 1955 was 10.6 percent above that of 1954. About 20 percent of this increase was accounted for by additional manpower, and 80 percent by an increase in labor productivity.

In 1955, the number of industrial workers was 2 percent above that of 1954; however, the planned number of workers was not reached, particularly in enterprises of the Ministry of Fuels. Turnover and absenteeism among industrial workers was lower in 1955 than in 1954, but substantial absenteeism still exists in enterprises of the Ministries of Fuels and Construction.

Industrial labor productivity was over 8 percent higher in 1955 than in 1954, and its planned increase was surpassed. The high increase of labor productivity was achieved primarily by raising the technological level of the national economy, and through better organization of work. The ratio between increases in average worker wages and the rise in labor productivity were favorable in 1955.

Acceleration of the rise in labor productivity permitted the planned reduction of production costs, for a comparable volume of goods production. The reduction of production costs permitted an increase in the profits of industrial enterprises, so that the plan for transfer of profits to the state budget was exceeded, thus increasing the volume of socialist accumulation. Nevertheless, some enterprises found themselves in financial difficulties, largely caused by the volume of surplus supplies. The greatest surpluses of materials still occur in enterprises of the engineering ministries and those of the Ministry of the Metallurgical Industry and Ore Mines.

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The following results were attained in individual branches of industry in 1955:

1. Fuels

The quantity of coal mined increased 6 percent over 1954. Some 23.2 million tons of hard coal (kamenne uhli), 38.7 million tons of brown coal (hnede uhli), and 2 million tons of lignite were mined during 1955. The increased production of coal was achieved through better utilization of existing potentials and mechanical equipment, as well as through further mechanization of the mines. The number of coal combines in operation was increased in 1955, while the average performance of coal combines and mechanical coal diggers was also increased. In surface mines, the performance of cantilever excavators (kolesove rypadlo) increased 39 percent, while that of loaders (zakladac) increased 35 percent. Geological research revealed some additional deposits of hard and brown coal, and lignite.

2. Power

In 1955, the production of power increased 10 percent and reached 15 billion kilowatt-hours, permitting a better supply of power to industry and to homes. Less fuel was required to produce one kilowatt-hour of electricity, and losses in the distribution of power were reduced. The installed capacity of power plants was increased during 1955 through the expansion of the power base.

3. Ore Mining

Mining of iron ore was increased 14 percent by means of increased mechanization, even though the over-all plan of mechanization was not fulfilled. Geological exploration revealed additional deposits of iron ore. Installations for the refining of iron ore, particularly sintering plants, were built in 1955.

4. Metallurgy

Almost 3 million tons of pig iron were produced in 1955, or 7 percent more than in 1954. Some 4.5 million tons of raw steel were produced, or 5 percent above 1954 production. While the utilization of blast furnaces improved in 1955, the planned level of their utilization was not reached. Production of narrow profile structural sections (uzkoprofilovy material) increased as follows: fine profile steel, 7 percent; concrete reinforcing steel, 7 percent; and precision tubes of unrefined steel for use in machinery and instruments, 22 percent. Production of nonferrous metals increased in 1955 as follows: aluminum, 56 percent; zinc, 21 percent; and electrolytic copper, over 5 percent.

5. Chemical Industry

The basis for producing sulfuric acid was increased by the activation of additional planned facilities. Production of nitrogen fertilizers increased 57 percent in 1955, while production of phosphate fertilizers increased 17 percent over 1954. Production of viscose fibers for light industry was increased 40 percent. The production of consumer items in the chemical industry was one fourth higher in 1955 than in 1954.

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6. Engineering

In 1955, production of steam boilers increased 65 percent over 1954; steam turbines, 36 percent; alternating-current generators, 43 percent; agricultural machines, 87 percent; metalworking machines for cutting, 25 percent; metalworking machines for forming, 2.4 times; roller bearings, 40 percent; tractors, 52 percent; and electric motors, 26 percent. Substantial increases over 1954 production were recorded for specific consumer items as indicated (in percent): motorcycles, 74; sewing machines, 58; electric washers, 54 and cameras, 82. Production of automobiles in 1955 was 2.3 times that of 1954, while production of vacuum cleaners increased to 2.5 times the 1954 level. In the production of certain engineering industry products including railway freight cars and sewing machines, the amount of labor was reduced. The quality of engineering products was improved.

7. Construction Materials

Production of basic construction materials increased in 1955 over 1954 as follows (in percent): cement, 13; lime, 22; and bricks, 14. Increased production was achieved through the better utilization of lime kilns and the further implementation of year-round operations in brickyards. The development of prefabricated-materials production continued in 1955, with 14 percent more construction panels being produced than in 1954. Production of prestressed concrete railroad ties increased 3.2 percent.

8. Lumbering

Production of coniferous lumber was 10 percent higher in 1955 than in 1954; production of deciduous lumber likewise increased 10 percent. Production of furniture increased 2 percent, while that of suites of furniture increased 18 percent. Paper production increases 4 percent.

9. Light Industry

The quality of light-industry products was improved, and production of new varieties of textile, leather, and glass products was introduced in 1955. Production of specific types of goods increased as follows (in percent of 1954): cotton fabrics, 4; woolen fabrics, 13; balloon ribs, 44; silk fabrics, 25 (including a 21-percent increase in natural silk fabrics); woolen suiting, 32; women's knitted underwear, 31; and light dress footwear, 29. Production of Silon stockings and socks increased to 2.2 times the 1954 level.

10. Food Industry

The variety of food products was substantially increased and their quality was improved in 1955. Increases in specific food products in 1955 were as follows (in percent of 1954): dairy butter, 16; canned milk, 24; meat, 10; canned meat products, 35; fish products, 22; confectionary products, 20; fine baked goods, 45; and chocolate candy, 6.

11. Pharmaceutical Industry

Production of drugs was increased in 1955, including a 26-percent increase in the output of sulfonamide drugs, an 81-percent increase in the output of streptomycin, and more than a 50-percent increase in the production of penicillin.

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12. Local Economy and Producer Cooperatives

Gross production in 1955 was almost 25 percent above that of 1954 in these components.

Technical Development

In 1955, greater attention was devoted to the raising of the technological level of Czechoslovak industry and to the introduction of new technology in the national economy. Production of additional new machinery was begun and many progressive production methods were implemented. The engineering industry began production of many new machines not previously produced in Czechoslovakia, including hydroelectric power plant equipment with Kaplan turbines for high water falls, grinding machines for crankshafts weighing 160 tons, grinding machines for large paper industry and metallurgical rollers, a two-stand planing machine weighing 190 tons, etc.

Production of various agricultural machines such as new models of grain combines, ensilage mowers and shredders, cultivators, weeders, potato planters, and potato diggers was begun in 1955.

Additional types of machines for the rubber, textile, and food industries were produced.

Additional synthetic products were introduced into production in 1955; this included production of resin from domestic raw materials. This resin, used in the production of impregnating lacquers for electrotechnical use, is superior to imported materials. Production of rock wool (kremenne vlakno) was also begun. Production of molybdenum wire for the manufacture of vacuum tubes and electric light bulbs was also started. Production of new weed killers for agricultural use was initiated.

The construction materials sector began production of lighter-weight materials by the use of new insulation materials.

Some sectors achieved success in the development of mechanization. In surface brown-coal mines, stripping work was almost completely mechanized, while the plans for mechanization of dumping and opening of preparatory and other shafts in the North-Bohemian Brown Coal Basin were surpassed by more than 10 percent. On the other hand, mechanization developed slowly in other sectors. The plan for mechanization of preparatory and opening tasks in the Ostrava-Karvina Coal Basin was not fulfilled. Attempts at mechanization were made without proper preparation of the work areas. In the ore mines the fulfillment of the plan of mechanization, particularly that of drilling, progressed in an unsatisfactory manner. The planned volume of loading in iron ore mines was surpassed with the aid of mechanical loaders. Mechanization of auxiliary tasks in metallurgical enterprises and mechanization of slag removal operations in power plants is being delayed. Planned mechanization was not achieved in the lumbering and meat-products industries and elsewhere. In the construction industry, the planned mechanization of concrete and reinforcing work was not achieved. The unsatisfactory loading and unloading situation still exists in the transportation sector.

In the introduction of automatic control of production processes, progress is being made in automatizing the heat control of open-hearth furnaces, permitting greater steel production, and lower fuel consumption. Progress was also made in the automatization of the control of operations in coking batteries and of coal-washing plants. Certain success was achieved in the automatization of some processes in light industry. Despite some progress, the automatization thus far achieved in the national economy is still not satisfactory.

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Despite improvement over 1954 in the introduction of new technology and in the fulfillment of the plan of technical development in 1955, certain deficiencies still remain in the introduction of new technology in the national economy, in the production of new machinery, equipment, and instruments by the engineering industry, and in the progress of mechanization and automation.

The growth of the innovator movement proved to be an outstanding source of propagating new technology in the national economy. During 1955, more than 120,000 suggestions for improvement of operations were submitted; however the workers' suggestions are not being implemented rapidly enough.

Development of Agriculture and Forestry

The constant attention of the party and the government, combined with the increased efforts of JZD (unified agricultural cooperative) members, state farm and MIS workers, and independent farmers, and the favorable climatic conditions, resulted in better agricultural production in 1955.

The total volume of agricultural production was 11.5 percent higher in 1955 than in 1954. Of this figure, crop production was 14 percent higher, while live-stock production was increased almost 8 percent.

During 1955, more attention was devoted to the utilization of land. The total area of land under cultivation was increased. Some 9 percent more corn for grain and in mixtures was planted in 1955 than in 1954, and about 22 percent more rape was planted. Nevertheless, the total amount of land under cultivation was not increased according to plans, because the planned amounts of rye, barley, rape, sugar beets, and potatoes were not planted.

As a result of changes in the amount of land under cultivation and an increase over 1954 per-hectare yields, the total production of selected crops was higher in 1955 than in 1954, as indicated (in percent): wheat, 33.3; rye, 19.5; sugar beets, 8.9; and potatoes, 2.6.

Fall work for the 1956 harvest was completed to a greater degree than was such work in 1954. Some 170,000 more hectares of land were plowed in 1955 than in 1954.

During 1955, 100,000 workers were added in the agricultural labor force. Some 14,000 students enrolled in agricultural schools. The 16,000 youth brigade members proved valuable in cultivation of idle land, in harvesting, and in other crop and livestock production tasks in the border okreses.

Some 28 percent more commercial nitrogen fertilizers, 19 percent more phosphate fertilizers, and 21 percent more potassium fertilizers were made available than in 1954. The higher deliveries of fertilizer were not always fully utilized, particularly on state farms.

During 1955, there was a further increase in the mechanization of field work. The agricultural sector received additional machinery, including 5,284 tractors, 1,443 grain combines, 732 beet combines, 147 flax combines, 929 automatic threshers, 2,053 trucks, and a variety of tractor-mounted equipment including 4,013 three- and five-bottom plows, 3,655 disk plows, 6,246 grain drills, and 1,249 potato planters. The plan for delivery of cultivators, plows, and weeders was not fulfilled.

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During 1955, 95 new MTS were established, and the number of specialized agronomists increased.

MTS performance in field work in 1955 was almost 700,000 hectares greater than in 1954. Although the 1955 plan for MTS field work was substantially higher than that for 1954 and unfavorable weather conditions frequently made operations difficult, the MTS fulfilled their 1955 plan 100.6 percent, including a 103.3-percent fulfillment of spring tasks and a 99.5-percent fulfillment of harvest and fall work tasks. The volume of cultivation work was 126 percent higher than in 1954. Mechanical harvesting of grain was 37 percent, and of flax, 55 percent, higher than in 1954. Of the total grain harvest carried out by MTS binders and combines, 25 percent was done with combines. The utilization of MTS machinery is still unsatisfactory. The MTS share in all agricultural work still does not conform to the technical and manpower capacities of the MTS.

In addition to field work, MTS performed repair and maintenance work for J2Ds and for independent farmers. Some 202 stations for installation work and for repair and maintenance of stable machinery were established.

Satisfactory results were achieved in livestock production in 1955. Because of a greater harvest of fodder and grain feeds and the increase of silage and feed imports, the feed reserve in 1955 was more satisfactory than in past years. The number of cattle reached 101 percent of plan and that of hogs, 113 percent. There were 52,000 head more of cattle than in 1954, although the number of cows is low and does not meet the established plan. Productivity of cows improved in 1955; the number of calves raised from 100 cows increased 7.3 percent, and milk production was 8.9 percent higher than in 1954. The mortality rate among calves was reduced 6.5 percent. The average live weight of slaughter cattle increased 20.4 kilograms.

In 1955, there were 684,000 more hogs than in 1954; this figure substantially surpasses the 1934-1938 average. With the substantially higher bulk-buying and surplus-purchase program, the domestic slaughter of hogs increased by 151,000 in 1955 over 1954. The productivity of sows also substantially increased in 1955; 557,000 more pigs were born in 1955 than in 1954 and the number of pigs raised per sow increased 4.1 percent whereas the mortality rate for pigs was reduced 6 percent. In 1955, the average live weight of slaughter hogs increased 2.5 kilograms over that of 1954.

Milk production in 1955 was 249 million liters above that of 1954, but the milk production plan was fulfilled only 57.5 percent. The egg production plan was fulfilled only 80 percent.

Increased agricultural production in 1955 permitted more successful bulk buying and surplus purchase of agricultural products. The over-all bulk-buying and surplus-purchase plans were fulfilled successfully, as indicated by the following (in percent of assigned tasks): grain, 104 (including wheat, 106; rye, 98; and barley, 114); sugar beets, 100.5; potatoes, 92; meat, 103 (including slaughter hogs, 110, and slaughter cattle, 96); milk, 102; and eggs, 95.

Bulk buying and surplus purchase of individual types of agricultural products in 1955, increased substantially over 1954 deliveries, by the following amounts (in 1,000 tons): wheat, 82; barley, 65; sugar beet, 405; vegetables, 59; and slaughter hogs, 46. Milk deliveries were 170 million liters greater, while 63 million more eggs were delivered than in 1954. Bulk buying in individual krajs was carried out more successfully than in past years. All krajs fulfilled their grain bulk-buying plans, 18 krajs fulfilled their slaughter hog delivery plans, but only 10 krajs fulfilled their milk delivery plans.

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In 1955, state purchases at higher prices accounted for a greater portion of the total deliveries than in 1954. Thus the surplus purchase of grain increased 244 percent; slaughter hogs, 106 percent; milk, 80 percent; and eggs, 59 percent. This substantially increased the earnings of JZDs and independent farmers from agricultural products delivered. The work of the bulk-buying apparatus improved in 1955. A major portion of the JZDs and independent farmers fulfilled their delivery quotas. The JZDs and state farms greatly contributed to the increases in agricultural production.

Strengthening of the JZDs continued in 1955, and after the June session of the Central Committee of the KSC (Communist Party of Czechoslovakia), the development of JZDs was accelerated. Since the beginning of the year, the number of Type III and IV JZDs increased by 293, while the amount of land operated by JZDs increased by 44,000 hectares and the number of JZD members increased by 26,000. Type III and IV JZDs operate 27 percent of the agricultural and 29 percent of the arable land. During 1955, the JZDs improved their application of new agronomic and zootechnic methods, so that they were able to get higher per-hectare yields than independent farmers and surpassed 1954 production. Investment construction in JZDs proceeded at an accelerated pace. Compensation per work unit was higher in 1955 than in 1954.

During 1955, state farms took over more than 20,000 hectares of agricultural land and applied new agronomic methods widely. They seeded 87 percent of their grain by the narrow-row method, raised 32 percent of their sugar beets according to the Prosenice method, and planted 20 percent of their potatoes in hills. In livestock production the results were better than those of 1954, for the number of calves on state farms raised per 100 cows increased 5 percent, while the number of pigs raised per 100 sows increased 2.3 percent. State farms are attaining the highest averages in milk production from their cows.

The socialist large-scale agricultural production comprises 41.7 percent of the nation's agricultural and 43.1 percent of the arable land. As a result of continued wider application of progressive agronomic and zootechnic methods, and the improvement of work with livestock and crops, the socialist agricultural sector as a whole is obtaining better results in agriculture than the independent farmers.

The socialist sector fulfilled its delivery plans better than the independent sector. In 1955, the socialist sector delivered more of the following products than in 1954 (increase in percent): grain, 17; sugar beets, 10; rape, 87; pork, 5; milk, 9; and eggs, 13.

Of the total deliveries of specific products, the socialist sector accounted for the following percentages: grain, 46; sugar beets, 57; rape, 75; meat, 47; milk, 43; and wool, 50.

Some 99,000 hectares of land were afforested, the plan being fulfilled 100.6 percent. About 63,000 hectares of newly wooded land were cared for. Fall preparations were made for the afforestation of 29,000 hectares of land in 1956. The great damage to forests resulting from storms was overcome within the specified time limit. Some 5,968,000 cubic meters of fallen timber were processed, 3,477,000 cubic meters more than in 1954.

Development of Transportation and Communications

The total volume of freight moved during 1955 by public transportation facilities was more than 10 percent greater than in 1954, and the plan was fulfilled 105 percent. Rail transportation accounted for a major portion of this increase.

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The increase in the volume of goods transported by individual forms of transportation was as follows, (in percent of 1954): by rail 9.6; by highway, on facilities of the Czechoslovak Automotive Transport Enterprise (Ceskoslovenska automobilova doprava) (CSAD), 11; by water, 38; and by air, 2.

The passenger transportation plan was surpassed 5 percent, and the number of persons transported was 6 percent higher in 1955 than in 1954. The greatest portion of this increase was accounted for by CSAD highway transportation.

Average turnaround time of railroad cars was somewhat shorter in 1955 than in 1954, but the planned reduction was not achieved.

The developing heavy-tonnage movement was reflected in the higher average gross weights of trains, compared with 1954: in this respect the 1955 plan was surpassed. The number of trains made up was almost double the 1954 figure.

The economic utilization of trains was promoted by the implementation of new technology, including the introduction of higher-capacity locomotives and the addition of railroad cars with four or more axles and greater load capacities.

The average daily volume of loading and unloading of railroad cars increased in 1955 over 1954, and was higher than required by the plan. In 1955, there was much more regularity in the loading and unloading of railroad cars, because a substantially greater portion of the loading and unloading took place on nonworking days. There were, however, deficiencies in the supply of railroad cars to the mines.

The 1955 beet harvest was successfully transported.

To speed transportation and to increase hauling capacity, the new Turna nad Bodvou - Roznava railroad line was completed in 1955. The Friendship Line (Trat družby) was completed, as was the electrification of the Liptovsky Mikulas - Poprad railroad sector. Experimental operation has already begun along this sector.

CSAD highway transportation fulfilled the 1955 plan for tonnage of freight hauled 105 percent, and the volume of freight hauled in 1955 was 11 percent above that of 1954. Bus lines fulfilled their plan for passenger transportation 107 percent, and hauled 9 percent more passengers than in 1954. The performance of the automobile transportation system was improved by the addition of trucks and buses, and by an increase in the capacity of each vehicle. Modernization of, and improved attention to, the vehicles was reflected in the lower repair rate. During 1955, 227 new bus routes were established.

Circuit delivery (okrskova preprava) of parcels was established throughout Czechoslovakia, beginning 1 September 1955.

Favorable navigation conditions permitted the water transportation plan to be surpassed by 35 percent, this being 38 percent above the 1954 volume of water transportation.

New Prague-Moscow and Prague-Paris air routes were opened in 1955. Passenger transportation increased, and the passenger transportation plan was fulfilled 115 percent. The 1955 volume of air freight, in ton-kilometers, was 33 percent above that of 1954, primarily as a result of substantial increases in the average hauling distance. The air freight transportation plan was fulfilled 108 percent.

Specific tasks in communications were fulfilled in excess of the 1955 plan. Some 122 new post offices were added and the number of radio transmitters was increased. The Ostrava television station, which is the second television station in Czechoslovakia, was completed and began testing at the end of 1955. Construction was begun on a television station in Bratislava.

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In 1955, 4 percent more individuals held radio permits. There are now over 2.8 million persons holding radio permits, and 32,000 holding television permits. During 1955, additional obcecs and subscribers were connected with the wired radio network.

In 1955, the number of telephone subscribers increased 9 percent over 1954, the plan being fulfilled 104 percent. The provision of telephone service for agricultural enterprises continued in 1955, with the plan being fulfilled 117 percent. At the end of 1955, 80 percent of the MTS, 74 percent of the state farms, and 31 percent of the JZDs had been connected with the state telephone network.

Investment Construction

During 1955, all sectors of the national economy experienced a further increase in basic funds, machinery and equipment, and buildings. Simultaneously, there was an increase in the volume in repairs on (charged to?) basic funds. The national investment construction plan was fulfilled only 91 percent.

Investments in the national economy in 1955 remained at about the same level as in 1954, but investments in agriculture increased 45 percent, while investments in housing construction increased 9 percent. Increases also occurred in investments for education and culture.

The plan of investment construction was not fulfilled as a result of inadequate fulfillment of construction plans and failure to meet delivery deadlines. The unsatisfactory situation in investment construction is attributable primarily to poor work organization, absenteeism and turnover among workers, failure to utilize mechanical equipment, excessive number of projects under construction, and delay in putting basic funds into operation.

Construction in 1955 was based on better planning and budgeting than in past years. The number of projects under construction was somewhat reduced because construction activity was directed at those projects which were scheduled to be put into operation in 1955.

Production potentials of individual sectors of the economy were increased by construction of new capacities and expansion of existing ones.

In the fuel industry, additional equipment was added for the extraction and processing of hard (kamenne) and brown (brunet) coal and particularly lignite; the coke production capacity was also expanded. In the power sector, the capacity of steam, thermal, and hydroelectric power plants was increased by 565,000 kilowatt-hours through additional construction. In the metallurgical industry, a new open-hearth furnace was put into operation, while three sintering plants were put into experimental operation. A charging belt (aglomeracni pas) and other equipment for the production of aluminum was put into operation. In the chemical industry, installations were constructed for production of sulfuric acid, nitrogen fertilizers, and other items. In the construction sector, the building of a new cement plant and lime kiln was begun. The capacity for production of bricks and prefabricated building materials was substantially increased. In the paper industry, existing paper mills were expanded and a new paper and cellulose plant was put into operation.

Additional important equipment was put into operation in engineering and in other industrial sectors. To increase the production capacity of individual sectors of the national economy, more than 10,000 metalworking machines were delivered, including almost 3,000 lathes and over 3,000 drills. A substantial portion of this equipment went to the engineering industry.

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Some 114 steam, 10 electric, and 2 internal-combustion locomotives were put into operation in 1955. In terms of two axles each, about 5,800 new railroad freight cars, 417 passenger railroad cars, and 148 motor-driven railroad cars were added. In water transportation, new all-metal vessels were launched.

In the trade sector, additional warehouse space was provided.

Certain successes were achieved in building in the other sectors of the national economy. New schools, hospitals, health centers, and other cultural and social facilities were put into use.

The fulfillment of the housing construction plan was not satisfactory, even though 1955 fulfillment was better than that of 1954. Some 48,000 apartments were constructed, including 13,200 which were constructed privately.

Construction on state farms and MTS was almost 50 percent higher than in 1954. Shelter was provided for an additional 9,300 head of livestock. JZD investment construction also increased in 1955. Cow barns for 60,000 cows, maternity and nursing barns for 13,000 calves, and hoghouses for 100,000 hogs were constructed in 1955 on JZDs.

Construction and assembly enterprises fulfilled the over-all 1955 construction and assembly plan 97 percent. The volume of work performed by employees of these enterprises was about 4 percent higher than in 1954.

The unfavorable decline in the number of workers on construction and assembly jobs continued in 1955, and at the end of 1955 their number was 6 percent lower than in 1953. Productivity of labor increased 9 percent over 1954, and the plan for growth of labor productivity was surpassed. The growth of labor productivity was partly promoted by expanded mechanization of construction activity, particularly in concrete form and reinforcing work. Complex mechanization was expanded on surface and concrete jobs. The expansion of mechanization was permitted by better utilization of heavy building machinery. Progressive construction methods were applied. For example, the Ministry of Construction introduced the assembly-line method of construction on 60 percent of its 1955 housing construction. In many cases, however, the continuity of construction processes in the assembly-line method was not maintained.

Construction and assembly enterprises failed to devote adequate attention to work organization and to the over-all control of the progress of construction jobs. The seasonal nature of construction activity was not eliminated and more regular division of construction activity was not accomplished in 1955, leading to the nonfulfillment of the annual construction plan. Whereas the plan of general repairs and maintenance carried out by building assembly organizations was surpassed, planned construction and assembly activity of an investment nature remained substantially unfulfilled.

Construction and assembly production costs remained at about the same level as in 1954.

Development of Domestic and Foreign Trade

The 1955 retail turnover plan was fulfilled 102 percent, and 11 percent more goods were sold than in 1954. The plan of the state trade network was fulfilled 102 percent, the plan of the cooperative trade sector was fulfilled 105 percent, and the plan for communal catering enterprises was fulfilled 100 percent.

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The sale of food products increased over the 1954 volume, particularly in the following groups (increase in percent): meat cuts, 4; meat products, 5; sugar, 4; wheat baked goods, 10; butter, 2; coffee, 20; tea, 15; beer, 5; and fruit, 15.

The sale of specific industrial consumer items increased over 1954 as follows (in percent): linen fabrics, 8; refrigerators, 58; electric washers, 64; cement, 76; bricks, 41; furniture suites, 12; wrist watches, 58; and soap, 8. Sales of television sets increased to 2.3 times and of motorcycles to 2.2 times last year's level. Despite the increase in sales of washers, television sets, motorcycles, and other items, the demands of consumers for these products were not completely satisfied. To ensure better service, 546 new sales outlets were added in 1955.

The turnover in communal catering enterprises reached the planned level, and the 1954 level was surpassed 9 percent.

During 1955, foreign trade was substantially expanded, and foreign trade turnover was 15 percent above that of 1954.

The rise in the export of engineering products permitted increased imports of raw materials and consumer goods. There was a substantial increase in the import of goods for the agricultural sector. For example, the volume of feed imported in 1955 was more than double that of 1954, while the import of commercial fertilizers and raw material for their manufacture was increased 13 percent.

Economic cooperation with the nations of the socialist camp was intensified. The share of these nations in Czechoslovakia's foreign trade volume was further increased in 1955. Among exports to these nations were complete production installations, such as power plants, sugar refineries, and other production enterprises, the export of which increased 26 percent. Czechoslovakia received more raw materials and special machinery from these nations. The import of industrial consumer goods from these nations in 1955 was double the 1954 volume.

In agreement with the peaceful efforts of the socialist camp, economic relations with capitalist nations were successfully developed. In comparison with 1954, the volume of trade with underdeveloped nations was particularly expanded.

Standard of Living and Cultural Activities

The living standard continued to improve in 1955. National income increased 9 percent, primarily through the increase of labor productivity and greater employment, the latter having increased more than 2 percent in 1955. The growth of national income in 1955 permitted an almost 10-percent increase in individual consumption.

Average wages and salaries in the entire national economy increased 2 percent. The resolutions of the party and government regarding the raising of the wages of some classes of workers, such as master workers, advanced-school professors, specialized instructors in industrial schools, and chief physicians, proved to be an important provision. Increases in the income of the farm population, particularly of JZD members, were even greater, primarily as a result of successful development of livestock and crop production.

The fourth retail price reduction since the [1953] currency reform was authorized on 1 April 1955. This reduction permitted the population to save more than 1.3 billion crowns annually.

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Wage increases and price reductions resulted in an increase in real wages and income. This fact was reflected in the fact that 1.6 billion crowns were deposited in state savings banks in 1955.

The development of education and culture continued in 1955. There were 12,374 schools of general education, attended by 1,916,000 students, which is 3 percent above enrollment in the 1954 academic year.

Almost 15 percent more students are enrolled in Grades 9 through 11 of the 11-year middle schools than were enrolled in 1954, while specialized and pedagogical schools have 2 percent more students. Half of the specialized-school students are girls.

In the 1955-1956 academic year, the 106 faculties of advanced schools of all types have 48,500 regular students, or 650 more than in the 1954-1955 academic year. Some 54 percent of all students are enrolled in advanced schools of a technical nature.

Over 51,000 workers are enrolled in special [extension?] study in specialized and middle schools, while over 22,000 workers are enrolled in this type of study in advanced schools.

In 1955, 11 percent more students completed studies at specialized and pedagogical schools than in 1954, while the advanced schools graduated 18 percent more qualified young specialists.

Some 68,000 young qualified workers were graduated in 1955 from mining, railroading, and other specialized schools of the state labor reserve and plant apprentice schools. These were placed in jobs in industry, construction, agriculture, transportation, trade, and other sectors of the national economy.

A total of 139,000 boys and girls are preparing for specialized careers in state labor reserve schools and plant apprentice schools during the 1955-1956 academic year.

During 1955, 70 theaters offered 26,230 presentations which were attended by 12.8 million persons. At the end of 1955, 3,478 motion-picture theaters were in operation in Czechoslovakia, and during 1955 these theaters offered 990,000 presentations which were attended by 163.6 million persons, or 7.5 percent more than in 1954. Some 59 new motion pictures were completed in 1955, including 18 of feature length. 11 of them in color. Circulation of Czechoslovak periodicals increased 3.4 percent over 1954. During 1955, 4,400 books were published with an average printing of 10,600 copies. Attention was devoted to the continued improvement of the level of touring theatrical groups and ensembles. The activity of mobile theaters and libraries was also expanded.

Social and health provisions continued to be expanded during 1955. Funds allotted in the national budget to health services were greater by 154 million crowns than those allotted for 1954. The network of health facilities was expanded and improved. This included the addition of 8 hospitals, 8 maternity wards, 2 institutes for infant care, 8 children's dormitories, and 11 specialized institutes in various medical fields.

At the end of 1955 there were 4,500 more beds in medical institutions than at the end of 1954; however the plan for addition of hospital beds was not fulfilled because of a delay in construction. The number of ambulatory facilities, [probably outpatient clinics] of various types was increased by 165.

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The number of positions for physicians in all establishments administered by the State Health Administration increased by 749 during 1955. Of this increase, 484 positions became available in establishments for ambulatory care. Some 74,000 patients received treatment in the specialized state balneological institutes during 1955, or almost 3,800 more patients than last year, although approximately the same average period of medical treatment was maintained.

Care of children of working mothers was improved. In 1955, there were 12 more child nurseries with capacity for 809 more children than in 1954. Some 490,000 students took their meals at school dining halls, and 135,000 students were cared for in youth dormitories (druziny).

Medical institutes of the ROH [Revolucni odborove nauti, Revolutionary Trade Union Movement] rendered medical attention to more than 150,000 workers and their dependents.

Over 225,000 workers were rewarded for good work during 1955 by being granted vacations at ROH rest centers. Over 100,000 employees and their families spent their leisure days at rest centers sponsored by their employing enterprises. Over 140,000 students of State Labor Reserve Schools and other schools were permitted to visit rest centers and recreation camps during the 1954-1955 academic year.

The 1955 appropriations for national insurance payments and other social benefits were substantially higher than in 1954. Some 140,000 crowns more than last year was paid out in health insurance benefits and family allotments. Almost 7.3 billion crowns, or 7.2 percent more than in 1954, was paid out in benefits to the aged and to invalids. Additional provisions and services were made available to pensioners, including 12 new pensioners' homes, 1,568 additional beds. National committees devoted particular attention to persons living alone and to ill and aged persons, paying them benefits amounting to 103 million crowns. Some 17 new dining halls and clubs for pensioners were added. The number of persons eating at these dining halls increased from 13,000 to 19,000.

During 1955, there was a further reduction in mortality, particularly among infants and children. There were 9.6 deaths per 1,000 persons, while in 1954 the rate was 10.4 deaths per 1,000. New drugs significantly reduced the incidence of death accompanying some diseases, such as diphtheria, whooping cough, and diseases of the respiratory system, particularly pneumonia. Deaths resulting from scarlet fever have been practically eliminated. Infant mortality in 1955 was 35.9 deaths per 1,000 live births, while in 1954 the rate 37.6 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The 1955 natural population increase was 10.6 per 1,000 persons, so that at the end of 1955, the population of Czechoslovakia numbered 13,137,000, with 3,754,000 living in Slovakia.